



Connections

October 2008

MoDOT Will Deliver 802 Better Bridges

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved plans on Sept. 18 to improve 802 of Missouri's lowest rated bridges in five years. The Commission decided to conclude the procurement process that had previously identified Missouri Bridge Partners as the apparent best-value proposer, citing the turmoil in the financial markets that made the proposal unaffordable, and directed MoDOT

in the way this project will occur, but how we will go about keeping our promise to deliver hundreds of safer bridges in a short period of time:

Within five years, 802 of Missouri's worst bridges will be repaired or replaced. These badly needed improvements will mean crashes avoided, jobs created and the ability to get where you are going easier.



Director Pete Rahn answers media questions about changes to the Safe & Sound program.

Shaun Schmitz

When we launched the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program in September 2006, we sought to fix 802 of the state's worst bridges using an innovative design-build-finance-maintain approach. We knew it was a bold step - something no other state had ever attempted - but we also knew it would allow us to quickly accomplish what Missourians wanted us to do: fix our ailing state bridges.

We budgeted \$50 million a year out of our federal bridge money to pay for the program. In February 2008 we reached an agreement with Missouri Bridge Partners for nearly everything we sought at a

cost of \$52.7 million annually. Almost immediately the financial crisis our economy has been experiencing began to impact their proposal. Today, payments are estimated at \$65 million to \$74 million depending upon actual interest rates at the time of financial close. This is just too expensive. It is not the best use of taxpayers' money and at this cost could threaten highway and bridge improvements in our adopted five-year construction program.

We're proud to say we'll still be delivering 802 improved bridges to Missourians in five years - we'll just be packaging and paying for the work a little differently. When all is said and done, our new approach will likely save taxpayers \$300 million to \$500 million.

Here's how it will work: at least 100 bridges will be under construction early next year using accelerated project management techniques; 554 bridges will be



Pictured above is one of the 802 bridges that will be improved through the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program.

included in a single design-build package that will be advertised this fall and awarded in late spring 2009; the remaining 148 bridges will be improved over the following four years also using an accelerated process. We'll sell bonds and use federal

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More Than Three-Fourths of Missourians Are Satisfied with MoDOT

by Sally Oxenhandler

How satisfied are you with the job MoDOT is doing?

That's the major question posed each year to 3,500 Missourians chosen at random to take a telephone survey aimed at determining customer satisfaction with MoDOT.

This year, 78 percent of the folks polled said they were satisfied with MoDOT, about the same as last year when 77 percent of Missourians gave MoDOT the thumbs up. Since the customer satisfac-

tion survey was first taken in 1999, the percentage of people who are satisfied with MoDOT has grown 14 percent, from 64 percent to 78 percent. The percentage of people very satisfied with MoDOT has grown 16 percent over the past five years.

"Each and every MoDOT employee influences these findings," Director Pete Rahn said. "Your work is directly responsible for how people see us and how well they think we're doing. We have a terrific team here at MoDOT, and the numbers reflect that."

Here are some other interesting findings gleaned from the survey:

- Eighty-six percent of those surveyed said MoDOT provided timely and understandable information, while eighty-five percent said we provided accurate information.
- Missourians increasingly agree that MoDOT considers their needs and views in decision-making.
- Customer perception that MoDOT is the 'primary transportation expert' is up greatly from previous years, but is relatively unchanged from 2007.

- Missourians continue to be split on whether MoDOT should place greater emphasis on major or minor roads.
- When asked if "MoDOT roads meet my expectations for snow and ice removal," more than 75 percent agreed their expectations are being met.
- Fewer Missourians are satisfied with transportation options available other than their personal vehicle.
- Citizens ranked transportation second only to education as the most beneficial government expenditure.

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bridge replacement funds we receive each year to make the annual payment.

Safe & Sound has always been about fixing bad bridges quickly and economically, and that's exactly what we're going to do. The experience we gained from this innovative approach suggests the project is very feasible. We worked with many excellent contractors and designers who provided competitive proposals. However, their good work could not overcome the extreme volatility in the nation's credit markets.

MoDOT has purchased from the final two teams their technical plans and design and exploration data. This is a good value and will allow us to work with our private sector partners to jump-start this important work.

In the end, it's not really about which delivery method gets us there, but that we get there, that matters. We promised to give Missourians a safer transportation system by fixing hundreds of our lowest-rated bridges in a short amount of time, and we'll deliver on our promise.

We are excited to get to work. The sooner these bridges are under construction, the sooner Missourians will reap the benefits - safer roads, more jobs and increased mobility.

Back to School with a Little Assistance

by Matt Hiebert

We all want to get the most out of life. We all want to improve ourselves and our prospects for success. To help support and develop employees in their quest for success, MoDOT offers the Educational Assistance Program.

The program allows full-time and permanent part-time employees to return to school to further their education, finish their degree or work on an advanced degree. Depending on the grade received, MoDOT will compensate the student employee up to 100 percent of their tuition.

Javal Burton, intermediate human resource specialist, is one of the individuals who took advantage of the program.



Javal Burton

“An advanced degree is important in my profession,” Burton said. “So I took the opportunity, went back to school and

received my masters degree in business administration.”

Burton coordinates the Education Assistance Program and says interested employees should focus on advancing in their field or an area that will benefit MoDOT. For instance, someone in design shouldn't apply to the program to receive a degree in nursing.

Also, once the employee decides to return to school, other factors have to be considered.

“A participant first needs approval from their supervisor,” Burton said. “They will have to look at budget considerations and possible flex time for the employee.”

If those and a few other considerations are met, the employee is off to the classroom.

Cindy Upton, a senior design technician in the Joplin District, is another employee who pursued the opportunity.

“I took charge of my life so I could be where I wanted to be,” Upton explained. “Let's face it, if you don't have an education, you won't go as far as you'd like.”

With an associate's degree under her belt and a bachelor's in Business Ad-



Cindy Upton

ministration in progress, Upton said the tuition reimbursement was the break she needed to get back in school.

“Without the reimbursement, I couldn't afford to take care of tuition myself,” she said.

MoDOT won't pay for books and other fees, but the department will cover tuition on a scale based on grades. An A will earn you 100 percent of your tuition back, a B is good for 75 percent, a C gets you half. MoDOT can't help you with Ds and Fs and reimbursement for graduate classes gets cut off after a B.

If you want to learn more about the Educational Assistance Program, visit the intranet at wwwwi/intranet/hr/employment.htm and look for the header called Educational Assistance.

Keep This Halloween From Turning Into a Real Nightmare

by Melissa Black

Halloween is a popular fall tradition that is enjoyed by people of all ages. But irresponsible celebrating can quickly spoil an evening and turn something fun into a real nightmare. That's why MoDOT reminds everyone to celebrate safely and that if “You Drink & Drive. You Lose.”

“Halloween should be a time for trick or treating with the kids and good family fun,” said Leanna Depue, director of the Highway Safety Division. “But unfortunately, Halloween has also become a very dangerous and deadly night of the year due to impaired driving.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 44 percent of all highway fatalities across the nation on Halloween night involved a driver or a motorcycle rider with a Blood Alcohol Concentration of .08 or higher, which is illegal in every state.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest problems. In 2007, 992 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in Missouri. There were 230 people who were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver with a BAC of .08 or higher.

To stay safe this Halloween, keep in mind the following tips:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.

- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and give that person your keys.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- Use your community's Sober Rides program if there's one available.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, contact your local law enforcement.
- Always buckle up. It's your best defense in a crash.
- Slow down and stay alert!

Besides looking out for impaired drivers, all motorists need to be aware that on a night such as Halloween, children dressed in costumes can run out onto

streets and roadways, and the damage could be staggering.

To avoid real-life Halloween horrors, remember the following:

- Walk on sidewalks. If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can.
- Make sure small children are with an adult when trick-or-treating.
- Be seen at night. Wear reflective strips and carry a flashlight.
- Don't assume a vehicle is going to

stop for you – the driver may not be paying attention or see you.

- Watch carefully for kids in the streets and stay close to your own little “monsters.”

“Real-life Halloween nightmares are simple to avoid if you make smart decisions,” Depue said. “Never drive impaired. Remember, “You Drink & Drive. You Lose.” We want everyone to Arrive Alive this Halloween.”

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

Permission Granted for Memorial Site

by Sandra Hentges

As a way to honor and show respect for each of the 127 MoDOT employees killed in the line of duty, the department began planning for the construction of a memorial in Jefferson City in 2007. A small working group has gathered comments on concepts, material and design from employees all over the state and requested permission to use a site on the Capitol lawn near the MoDOT Headquarters building.

In August 2008, the Second State Capitol Commission approved this site for the memorial. The area is just to the

north and west of the MoDOT building, in between MoDOT and the Capitol. The Capitol Commission requires approval of the final design and asked that the memorial fit well with its surroundings.

The memorial committee is now assisting in the development of fundraising efforts to obtain financial support for the design and construction of the memorial itself.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress and ways that you can help.



MoDOT Values Ideas That Increase Our Options

by Kristi Jamison

We know MoDOT doesn't have all the answers when it comes to planning for, funding and maintaining the nation's seventh largest transportation system. That's why one of our fundamental values is to seek out and welcome any idea that increases our options. One way MoDOT lives up to that principle is through our commitment to involving the public in the process of evaluating the state's transportation needs, selecting projects and defining the work to be done.

We realize, however, that it isn't always easy or possible for people to physically attend a standard public meeting. So in September, MoDOT introduced a new and unique way to capture these ideas by hosting our first-ever online public meeting about the possibility of truck-only lanes on Interstate 70.

This new virtual tool provided an online meeting format that allowed participants to receive information and video clips explaining the concept and enabled them to ask questions, make comments and see other common questions and comments right from

their own personal computers. Links to more detailed information on a range of technical and planning information were also available.

"In the spring we posted a video about truck-only lanes on YouTube, and more than 7,600 people watched it," said MoDOT Project Manager Bob Brendel. "Building on that experience we thought it was appropriate to conduct our next round of meetings electronically.

"We need and want public input. We want to make sure that our final plan is not only smart from an engineering standpoint, but also that it truly reflects the values and priorities of the taxpayers who support our transportation system."

Sometimes seeking out and welcoming ideas to increase our options means that we must actively look into new ways we can increase the public's options to share those ideas. The online public meeting is now another effective tool we can use to increase the public's involvement in the future of Missouri's transportation system.

More Missourians Satisfied

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■ Missourians are pretty evenly split on whether MoDOT receives enough funding to take care of existing roads and build new ones. Fifty-one percent say yes; 49 percent no. However, the "no" percentage reflects a 10 percent increase from 2007.

■ Slightly more Missourians noted that if more funding were available, MoDOT should concentrate on maintaining existing facilities rather than building more lanes and highways.

You can find the full report in Organizational Results' Innovation Library on the intranet.

Five Things You Can Tell Your Neighbors About Safe & Sound

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has approved plans to improve 802 of Missouri's worst bridges in five years. However, due to the nation's volatile credit markets, MoDOT will now manage the Safe & Sound program differently from the Design-Build-Finance-Maintain contract that was envisioned when the program was launched two years ago. Here are five things you can tell your neighbors about changes to Safe & Sound:



1. At least 100 bridges will be under construction in early 2009. They will be chosen from a list of 248 bridges that are candidates for rehabilitation and will be contracted using a modified design-bid-build process.

2. The remaining 554 bridges in the program will be packaged in a single Design-Build contract. MoDOT will seek proposals this fall and award a contract in late spring 2009.

3. All 802 bridges will be improved within five years. Complete lists and maps of the bridges on the program are at www.modot.mo.gov/safeandsound.

4. MoDOT owns the proposals developed by Missouri Bridge Partners and Team United during the initial procurement process and may use their technical concepts, designs, schedules, etc. as the project moves forward.

5. As before, most of the 802 bridges will be closed during construction to minimize cost and speed the work. MoDOT will develop detours on state routes only. Each bridge will be identified by "Safe & Sound" signs that will be erected by Oct. 31.

Emulating Success

by Kristi Jamison

A good network of support is instrumental to anyone's success on the job. It is also one of the purposes of MoDOT's Mentorship program. Such a network can exist within your own work unit, or it can cross division boundaries as it has for Susan Marshall and Johnna Teel.

Susan is a Human Resources manager at the District 8 office in Springfield and Johnna is a Maintenance crew leader at District 8's Maintenance facility in Buffalo. What may have seemed to some as an unlikely pairing actually is a very valuable mentoring relationship. The women informally started meeting in 2006, but didn't officially join the program until December 2007. Their goal is to help

Johnna expand her interpersonal skills to better position herself for promotions within the Maintenance division.

In the Mentorship program, the mentee is responsible for identifying a person to be their mentor. "When choosing a mentor, you should choose

someone you respect and admire," said Elizabeth Reed, senior human resources specialist. "You should look for a person with the type of leadership skills and personal qualities that you yourself desire to emulate."

That's just what Johnna did in picking Susan as her mentor. "I am very goal oriented, but for some reason, what I was doing just wasn't working," Johnna said. "I was frustrated and didn't feel I was being as productive as I could be. It felt like I was my own worse enemy. When I met Susan, I liked her calm and cool demeanor and wanted those qualities for myself."

Throughout their mentoring relationship, Susan has been using several techniques to help Johnna realize that "your attitude, not your aptitude, determines your altitude."

"We have really focused on my attitude and interpersonal skills to help me develop a more optimistic "the glass is half full, rather than half empty" outlook," Johnna said.

While their physical locations and unpredictable schedules require them to be very flexible in setting up meeting times, when they do get together, they work on interview techniques to increase self-control, listening and team work skills.

"We have both learned things about ourselves," said Susan. "We are both learning to appreciate the good and correct the bad. I have also learned to

ask more questions and engage her in her responses more to ensure we are communicating effectively.

"As our time together as mentor/mentee has progressed, I am proud to say that Johnna is beginning to realize that title and position do not automatically give an individual character, nor even respect for that matter. Rather, it is how that individual carries oneself in certain situations and utilizes his or her interpersonal skills to the betterment of everyone that is what really shows character and earns respect from another individual."

Lessons about being responsible for your own actions and working as a



Susan Marshall, seated, is a mentor to Johnna Teel. Trust and support are key elements of their mentoring relationship.

team at all times, along with truthful feedback from her mentor is already helping Johnna become more aware of her approach when working with others and how her attitude and actions are perceived by them.

"The Mentorship program has given me an avenue of trust and support, along with someone who gives me honest feedback," said Johnna. "It's hard to open up and look at yourself, but now I know what my good qualities are and what I still need to work on. The one thing Susan has taught me is that we don't have the ability to control everything in our lives, but how one deals with what is given to them is a test of character."

Although it is a work in progress, with her mentor's help Johnna is developing better leadership skills that will strengthen her ability to open up new opportunities for herself and other women that will follow her footsteps into the Maintenance field.

The Mentoring program exists to support and develop our employees. It is available to everyone, whether you work in a Central Office division or in any of the districts across the state. If you're interested in participating in the program, contact the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division at 573-526-5611, by e-mail at EqualOpportunity@modot.mo.gov or on the Intranet at www.wwwi/intranet/eo/.



Spotlight on Diversity

If you really think about it, the fundamental life lessons we learned back in preschool are the very building blocks we need now as adults to create an inclusive environment at our workplace. Does anyone remember the words of wisdom from Robert Fulghum’s intuitive essay “All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten?” In his writing, he shared that “Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand box at nursery school.” The sand box was the very place you first learned how to treat yourself, your neighbor and your environment.

Well, according to a poem by Shane De-Rolf, there’s another important life lesson for both young and old that comes from a different, yet very familiar kind of box ... a crayon box.

The Crayon Box That Talked

*While walking in the toy store the day before today,
I overheard a crayon box with many things to say.*

*“I don’t like the Red,” said the Orange and Green said, “Nor do I.”
And no one here likes Yellow, but no one knows just why.*

*“We are a box of crayons that doesn’t get along,”
said Blue to all the others, “Something here is wrong.”*

*Well, I bought that box of crayons
and I took it home with me
and laid out all the colors so the crayons could all see.*

*They watched me as I colored with Red and Blue and Green
and Black and White and Orange
and every color in between.*

*They watched as Green became the grass and Blue became the sky.
The Yellow sun was shining bright
on White clouds drifting by.*

*Colors changing as they touched,
becoming something new.
They watched me as I colored. They watched until I was through.*

*And when I’d finally finished, I began to walk away.
And as I did, the crayon box had something new to say.*

*“I do like Red,” said Orange, and Green said, “So do I.”
And Blue you were terrific so high up in the sky.*

*“We are a box a crayons. Each one of us unique.
But when we get together the picture is complete.”*

Never Made It Campaign Portrays Consequences to Teens

by Laura Holloway

The Never Made It teen safety belt campaign launched Oct. 1, encouraging teens to buckle up and arrive alive. Sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, the campaign runs through October and conveys the potential consequences that teens may face when choosing not to wear their seat belts.

other drivers. October is a particularly dangerous month for Missouri’s young drivers. In 2007, more traffic crashes involving young drivers occurred in October than any other month.

Several media elements work together to reach young drivers, including cable and radio advertisements, along with an online advertising presence on popu-



The campaign uses realistic, chilling images of teens that “never made it” to significant milestones in their lives, or even day-to-day activities they may take for granted. It addresses common excuses teens may use when not buckling up and the consequences of those choices.

Teens are an important group to reach with a seat belt message, especially in Missouri, where the teen safety belt usage rate is significantly lower than

lar teen Web sites. The campaign also complements the efforts under way for the Battle of the Belt challenge, where Missouri high schools compete against each other for the highest seat belt use.

For more information about the Never Made It campaign, Battle of the Belt or teen safety belt use, visit www.saveMOyouth.com.

October Service Anniversaries

45 Years		
Kenneth W. Tackett	D4	
30 Years		
Daniel T. Lewis	D2	
Billy J. Pearce	D2	
Timothy S. Fuqua	D3	
Leonard W. Admire	D8	
Jerry G. Goodman	CO	
25 Years		
Daryle Brewster	D4	
Derrick A. Taylor	D4	
Thomas G. Rackers	D5	
Bruce D. Buzzell	D6	
Mark O. Hill	D6	
Johnny D. Lutes	D10	
Myra M. Stobbart	CO	
20 Years		
David A. Scrivens	D1	
Bradley D. Wise	D4	
Jeanne M. Olubogun	D6	
Lori K. Palmer	D7	
Jean A. Collins	D8	
Willie C. Hawkins	D10	
Peter M. Donovan	CO	
Deborah L. Kraus	CO	
Tom Veasman	CO	
Debra L. Sparks	CO	

15 Years		
Dale K. Hague	D2	
Harley E. Owen	D2	
Todd W. Rounkles	D2	
Raymond G. Schneider	D2	
Jimmy A. Watts	D2	
Beth A. Brown	D3	
Charles H. Burkemper	D3	
Dennis J. Betz	D4	
Diana L. Johnson	D4	
Harry L. Edwards	D5	

Gregory A. Hitt	D6	
Robert A. Rugraff	D6	
Robert B. Zahner	D6	
Brent A. Jones	D8	
Lee O. Byes	D10	
Wayne V. Elliott	CO	
Jeania A. Lowe	CO	
Gayle A. Unruh	CO	
10 Years		
Jason K. Gordon	D1	
David E. McQueen	D1	
Michael L. Meek	D1	
Mark A. Pickering	D2	
Kimberly M. Trainor	D3	
Daniel E. Crowder	D4	
Franklin P. Lundry	D4	
Regan D. Magee	D4	
Lori L. Wyrick	D4	
Thomas E. Green	D5	
Caleb B. Alexander	D7	
Dennis L. Fritchey	D7	
Bret A. Hicks	D8	
Lester E. Henson	D9	
Randel D. Sharp	CO	
5 Years		
Robert F. Chandler	D1	
Timothy S. Williams	D1	
Marty A. Crouse	D2	
Dennis C. Epperson	D3	
Mathew G. Breshears	D4	
Amy B. Gagne	D4	
Loren E. Moore	D4	
Carla A. Shaw	D4	
Kevin D. Simcosky	D4	
Ahimed Yimer	D4	
Diana L. Allbright	D6	
David T. Ball	D6	
Loretta L. Bruce	D6	
David M. Grimes	D6	

Randy A. Hargis	D6	
Stephen A. Naumann	D6	
Steven G. Reed	D6	
Jimmy D. Cotton	D7	
Marvin E. Pennington	D7	
Richard L. Stansbury	D7	
Christopher E. Daniels	D9	
Ronnie L. Cluck	D10	
Michael G. Cunningham	D10	
Freddie R. Drury	D10	
Jeremy D. Flieg	D10	
Eli M. Goodrum	D10	
Gary W. Jines	D10	

Bradley A. Slusher	D10	
Monty J. Sorensen	D10	
Chanta D. Surface	D10	
Robert W. Tripp	D10	
Kevin D. White	D10	
Freddie J. Williams	D10	
Randall C. Beem	CO	
Mark E. Brooks	CO	
Derek L. Holzhauser	CO	
Colin S. Russell	CO	
Michael L. Sills	CO	
David A. Skiles	CO	
Lynn A. Struempfh	CO	

In Memoriam

Retirees					
Arzie D. Cato	D10	July 24	Stephen G. Morfeld	CO	Aug. 16
William F. Powell	D10	Aug. 3	Kenneth O. Rhoads	D5	Aug. 17
Virgil N. Creech	D3	Aug. 3	Harry W. Eisel	D4	Aug. 17
Dallas Calder, Jr.	D4	Aug. 5	Ernst “Pete” Grote	D6	Aug. 17
Joseph W. Young	D1	Aug. 10	Clarence L. Koeller	D4	Aug. 21
Nelson “Neil” Perkins	CO	Aug. 14	Charles R. Hatfield	D4	Aug. 23
Stuart “Stu” C. Ramsay	D1	Aug. 15	William D. Milton	D3	Aug. 30

August Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service			
Richard Cook	D1	35	Billy Hicks	D8	31
James Hahn	D1	12	Kenneth Burrus	D9	27
Davis Harris, Sr.	D2	7	Rebecca Cash	D9	26
Terry Blair	D3	29	James Rhoades	D10	29
Gary Baxter	D4	28	Cheryl Buechter	CO	25
Phillip Charles Brant	D4	28	Jean Carpenter	CO	30
Terry Smith	D6	30	Kent Van Landuyt	CO	39
Mitchell Thiele	D6	22	Michael Watson	CO	34
Dorothy Cameron	D7	22			



MoDOT Geologist Shares New Technology with the Chinese

by Nathaniel Allen

This past June, MoDOT Geologist George Davis had the opportunity to share one of his talents overseas. Davis is one of less than a dozen nationwide experts in the field of geology applied to trenchless technology. Because of his expertise, Davis was invited by the China-United States Joint Center for Trenchless Research and Development of China University of Geosciences that unites the United States and China on this relatively new technology.

Trenchless technology is the methods and means of installing pipes under already existing structures, such as roadways.

“There will be times when you need a pipe to go under a roadway,” Davis said. “And it adds substantial costs to rip up the road, dig to install a pipe and then put the road back. Using the trenchless methods we can get the pipe under the

road without doing anything to the road.”

Davis’ trip was paid for completely by the Chinese National Petroleum Pipeline Bureau, who was hosting the seminar.

“The only thing that I had to provide was my passport and procure a visa,” Davis said. “That was no problem because I have always wanted one for future travel, the Chinese also provided a letter of invitation.”

Upon arriving in Beijing, Davis experienced culture shock, amazed by the differences he saw, but quickly adapted because of the hospitality of the Chinese. Davis even got to partake in some of the Chinese culture by eating Peking duck.

“One night we were taken out to eat at a restaurant in Beijing which serves Pe-



Geologist George Davis shares his expertise on trenchless technology with an audience in Beijing, China.

king duck,” Davis said. “Peking is the older name for Beijing, so I am one of the few who has actually eaten Peking duck in Peking. I feel very fortunate to have taken part.”

After speaking at a two-day seminar with other trenchless experts from the Netherlands, Australia, Japan and the United States, Davis got to tour famous Chinese landmarks ranging from the Great Wall to the new Olympic stadium in Beijing.

“The Olympic stadium is amazing, all of the support beams are outside of the

stadium,” Davis said. “China is full of the desire to learn new technologies, such as the technology brought in from Japan. They have curved pipe jacking to curve pipes around obstacles.”

“China is a developing nation that is developing in the right direction. Through their industriousness, determination and willingness to ask for help and copy successes from other countries, they are really building on some great new ideas.”

Weiler Contributes to High Flying AirVenture

Brian Weiler, Multimodal Operations director, recently attended the Experimental Aircraft Association’s AirVenture 2008, held in Oshkosh, Wis., to support an exhibit by the National Association of State Aviation Officials.

Considered the world’s largest aviation celebration, this year’s event drew in an estimated 540,000 people, including top government officials, aircraft manufacturers/businesses, aviation organizations and plenty of aircraft enthusiasts. The weeklong event also attracts more than 10,000 airplanes of every shape and size.

Brian, who is also a pilot and former military air traffic controller, helped staff a tent with aviation counterparts from approximately 30 other state DOTs. They passed out state airport directories and charts and talked with

pilots about what agencies like MoDOT do to support aviation.

“I really enjoy talking to pilots from across the nation, but especially those that utilize Missouri’s system of 114 public use airports,” Weiler said. “Many are surprised to find out how active state DOTs are in improving airports.”

MoDOT utilizes state aviation fuel tax revenue and federal aviation funding to complete approximately \$20 million to \$30 million in aviation improvements each year to Missouri airports. Projects include runway extensions, taxiways, aircraft parking aprons, fuel facilities and navigation aids. MoDOT has even built six new general aviation airports since 1990, which is more than any other state, and there is a seventh new airport currently under construction near Branson.



Multimodal Operations Director Brian Weiler and Henry Ogradzinski, executive director of the National Association of State Aviation Officials, take a break from working at the NASAO tent during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2008.

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Rural Transit Campaign Win’s Awards

MoDOT has won four first-place AdWheel Awards from the American Public Transportation Association for its statewide rural transit marketing campaign, “Anyone Can Ride.”

The awards recognize APTA members for excellence in public transportation advertising, communication, marketing and promotions. Shirley Tarwater, transit operations specialist, submitted the materials, which were developed by Selena Barlow of Transit Marketing.

MoDOT won in the following categories for four pieces of its marketing toolkit:

Print category for foldable map (the Z-card);

Electronic category for radio public service announcements;

Electronic category for video on rural public transportation; and

Electronic category for television public service announcement.

D1

Northwest

Memorial Highway Named In St. Joseph

Story & photos by Holly Murphy

On Aug. 28, a dedication ceremony was held for the Deputy Charles M. Cook Memorial Highway. Deputy Cook lost his life in an automobile accident on the Belt Hwy. in St. Joseph while in pursuit of a motorcycle on June 23, 2007. Missouri Sen. Charlie Shields sponsored Senate Bill 753 last year to name a portion of the Belt Hwy. after Cook between Frederick Ave. and Gene Field Rd. The Northwest District Community Relations Department worked alongside the Buchanan County

Sheriff's Department to plan the event, which took place directly in front of the Buchanan County Law Enforcement Center in St. Joseph. During the ceremony Don Wichern, district engineer, presented Deputy Cook's widow, Renee Cook, and three-year-old son, Trevor, with a miniature sign. Sheriff Mike Strong commented during the ceremony, "Now the community won't forget what he did. His family and his son will know what he did."



These cadettes from the Buchanan County Law Enforcement Center marched to the ceremony. More than 100 law enforcement representatives attended from Northwest Missouri.

Holly Murphy



Holly Murphy

Northwest District Engineer Don Wichern presented Renee Cook and three-year-old Trevor Cook with a miniature sign during the highway dedication ceremony. Deputy Cook lost his life while in pursuit of a motorcycle on the Belt Hwy. in St. Joseph last year.



Holly Murphy

Trevor Cook was quite thrilled with his miniature highway sign and carried it with him throughout the reception showing his family and friends. Another miniature sign will hang in a place of honor in the Buchanan County Law Enforcement Center in St. Joseph.

Tour of Missouri Mochila

by Holly Murphy

More than a 100 years ago it was horses and riders that were leaving St. Joseph in a mad dash with a bag full of mail destined for California. These were the infamous Pony Express riders who braved the elements to deliver mail by horseback. On Sept. 8, it was international bicyclists who raced away from St. Joseph. The city was proud to host the beginning of the Tour of Missouri and captured the opportunity to incorporate the legends of such Pony Express riders as Johnny Fry. Those attending were surprised to see a Pony Express horse and rider come racing into the starting line to deliver the official starting pistol to Gov. Matt Blunt.

The winner of each stage of the Tour of Missouri were given a premium from the community where the stage of the race began. St. Joseph thought it would be fitting if they gave a replica of the

mochila which was used by the Pony Express riders to carry the mail. Inside the mochila was also a \$1,500 prize. The replica was handcrafted by a local craftsman, Bill Mooney, who happens to be the uncle of Mike Mooney, senior highway designer in District 1. It was Mike who told us that his uncle was preparing the gift for the first stage of the Tour of Missouri. Hundreds of spectators were on hand to see the cyclists start the race in St. Joseph.



Elaine Justus

This handmade mochila was a replica designed for the race.



Holly Murphy

Historic downtown St. Joseph made a picturesque setting for the beginning of the first stage of the Tour of Missouri.



Holly Murphy

A Pony Express reenactor delivered the starting pistol to Gov. Blunt at the starting line.

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D2

North Central

Thar She Blows!

Demolition of the Glasgow Bridge began with a big bang just after daybreak on Sept. 8. A number of local citizens watched the show from the riverbanks, despite heavy rainfall that stopped just shortly before the detonation. The first

The ferry service was only briefly interrupted both days, which was great for commuters.

There are two remaining detonations scheduled for October. The east span



Catherine Morrison

The second implosion lit up the dreary grey morning sky. Television and newspaper media along with MoDOT personnel captured photos and video from the ferry service floating on the river.

implosion downed two of the through truss spans and one deck span over the west bank.

The second detonation occurred two days later to an even larger crowd, taking down one of three remaining spans. Although the bright flash from the detonation and the loud boom only lasted a couple of seconds, it was a great visual experience to watch the massive metal truss span dropping into the river.

Both detonations went off as planned as everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

near Glasgow and the middle span over the river will complete demolition of the aged overhead truss spans.

Cathy Morrison, senior multimedia services specialist and Wes Farris, multimedia services technician, did a great job capturing the implosions with still and video photography. Steve Bushko, senior multimedia services specialist, set the video to music and published on YouTube. You can view the Web site to see more photos and the video. The remaining demolition will also be included on the Web - <http://www.modot.mo.gov/northcentral/glasgowbridgeproject.htm>.



Catherine Morrison

The massive structure takes only seconds to drop down into the river.

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Grand Opening

The district dedicated its new WorkLIFE Center in August with an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony. Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker did the honors by cutting the ribbon and officially opening the new center to all district employees.

The WorkLIFE Center is comprised of Human Resources, Information Systems, Risk Management and Business and Benefits. The function of these departments is to develop and support employees throughout their MoDOT career; which fits right into the Center's goal - *"To better serve employees from the day they are hired through their retirement years."*

To accommodate the new center, several offices were moved during the summer months to allow three of the four departments to be housed in a centralized location for easy access to employees.

"We're providing employees a one-stop shop to access the information they need from the first moment they are interested in working for the department throughout their retirement," Dan Niec said.

Before opening the center a photo contest was held for all supervisors. They were asked to capture employees on film and submit the photos for the WorkLIFE Center Photo Gallery.

Twenty-four photos from the nearly 100 submitted were selected, enlarged, framed and placed in the corridor of the new center.

The photos depict employees working hard and doing the great job they do every day.

All MoDOT personnel are invited to visit the center when in the district.



From Left - Support Services Manager Steven Pike, District Information Systems Manager David Oliver, Senior Risk Management Technician Nancy Davis, Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker, Credit Union Manager Kay Lucas, Human Resource Manager Ellen Gehringer and District Engineer Dan Niec cut the ribbon for the new WorkLIFE Center.

7

Alternate Route 63 Public and Virtual Meetings

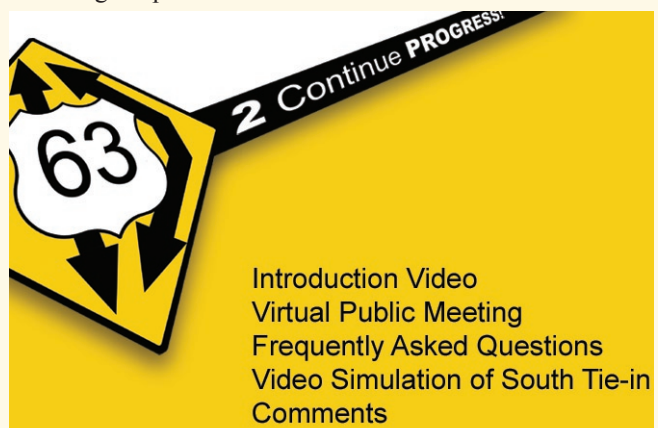
A recent public meeting for the Alternate Route 63 project had an interesting twist - a virtual public meeting.

The virtual meeting gave citizens the opportunity to view the same displays and information offered during the public meeting. They could also watch a video introduction and traffic simulation, and submit comments on the project.

Both meetings proved very successful with 178 participants attend-

ing the public meeting and 276 visitors checking things out online.

The success had by this first attempt at a virtual public meeting means there will definitely be more to come.



D3

Northeast

Returning to Business As Usual

Mother Nature just couldn't leave well enough alone. In spite of being hit once again in September, Northeast District crews picked up where they left off in June to accomplish repairs originally scheduled for the summer.

"We're finally getting to do some cinder sealing and much needed shoulder repairs," explained North Area Engineer Jennifer Hinson. Mowing has been a hot topic with customers simply because with the wet summer, grass is still green and growing. "Even though we sprayed plant growth regulator this year, due to the warm, rainy weather, we've had to mow sight distance on routes we normally wouldn't have to."

The south area is experiencing the same. "We've completed a few chip seals and are finishing up some hot mix patching," said South Area Engineer Ervin Fackler. "We'll hope for decent fall weather so we can make up what didn't get done this summer."

Some of the 'business as usual' isn't necessarily that usual, because the work involves partnerships with counties and cities to make improvements on state roads. "We've worked together to improve the road system, creating win-win situations for all those involved, including motorists," Jennifer explained.



Above: Members of the Troy maintenance crew repaired a heavily used intersection at South Lincoln Drive in Troy. Below: Warrenton and New Florence crew members were challenged to repair a slide on Route 47 at the curvy, steep and heavily traveled area known as Hopewell Hill just south of Warrenton.



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Gene Leverenz clears out an area on Route 79 near Louisiana in preparation for a new culvert as Roy Neimeyer looks on.

There is No "I" in Teamwork

It's been exactly 15 years since all Northeast District employees had gotten together in one room to celebrate. In 1993, employees throughout the state were praised and recognized for their dedicated efforts in fighting the flood. The opportunity arose this year as a result of the flooding and significant team efforts of our entire district staff.

"Since significant time and efforts were dedicated by our employees to the flood, we felt it was important to honor them with a Flood Recognition Event," said Assistant District Engineer Dave Silvester. Speakers from the Corps of Engineers and local emergency management and System Management Director Don Hillis focused on and praised the team effort. A special DVD was created by Community Relations Specialist Tana Akright and MoDOT's multimedia department. This DVD was

shown during the event and a copy was given to every employee. Pictures of flooded highways, employees sandbagging and even deer swimming were enlarged and displayed.

In addition to these highlights, Don presented Keith Golian and Thomas Ragland with a Meritorious Safety Award for their heroic efforts to save two young men whose vehicle had been swept off the highway during a flash flood on July 25.

"It was important to recognize everyone in our district, because everyone played a role," Dave said. "Missed meals, evenings away from home and other personal inconveniences were sacrifices made by the MoDOT team, and we just wanted them to know how much they are appreciated."



Allen Mehrer, forester with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake, shared perspective on the flooding that forced the Corps to release more than 500 billion gallons of water in August, causing more flooding along the Salt River. Mehrer was one of the guests at the Flood Recognition Event held for Northeast District employees last month.

D4

Kansas City Area

A New Rounbabout to Talk About

by Kerri Lewis

MoDOT and area leaders celebrated the completion of Smithville's first roundabout with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 18. The opening of the roundabout, a one-way, circular intersection that channels traffic around a central island without traffic signals, signified the completion of safety improvements at the intersection of Route 92 and Commercial St. on time and within budget.

"MoDOT's first priority is safety, and building a roundabout is an innovative way for creating a safer intersection. This great alternative to a signalized intersection means motorists will find a quicker, safer and more economical route to reach their destination," said District Engineer Beth Wright.

Built using safety money allocated by MoDOT, the roundabout is safer than a signalized intersection. Some

signalized intersections have more than 20 spots where vehicles could collide, but adding a roundabout reduces the number of spots to eight. Fewer conflicts with the slower speeds and better traffic flow can reduce collisions by 75 percent, result in fewer crash-related injuries and result in less property damage. Also, sight-distance is better and the driver needs to look in only one direction versus several different directions at once before entering the intersection.

Roundabouts are also quicker and more economical. They reduce driver delay, allowing motorists to yield rather than stop. This ensures that the roundabout can handle larger traffic volumes faster than a signal. Less stopping and idling saves on fuel and reduces pollution.



Representatives from the city, state and MoDOT gathered to cut the ribbon, signifying the enhanced intersection completion.

Sen. Ridgeway spoke highly of MoDOT's work on the new roundabout.

Groundbreaking Begins Major Project

by Steve Porter



Representatives from MoDOT, and city, and state officials break the ground for the new interchange at Route 71 and Route 150.

Steve Porter

Work on the interchange of Route 71 at Route 150 and the widening of Route 150 from Route 71 to Route 291 is under way. A ceremony on September 16 recognized the start of these important projects.

Representatives from Grandview, Kansas City and Lee's Summit joined MoDOT near the northeast corner of Route 71 and Route 150 to break ground on both highway projects. In August, Clarkson Construction Co. commenced earth moving on the new Route 71 interchange at Route 150 and the first phase of the widening of Route 150, from just east of Route 71 in Grandview to Lumpkins Fork Creek.

When complete in late 2010, these projects will significantly improve traffic flow for tens of thousands of motorists in the south Kansas City area.

The Interchange Reconstruction of the Route 150 interchange at Route 71 includes removal and replacement of the Route 71 bridges over Route 150. The existing diamond interchange will be reconfigured as a single-point, urban interchange, which moves intersecting traffic more quickly by

reducing the number of traffic signals. Route 150 will be widened and include separate turn lanes. The ramps will be widened, allowing for multiple turn lanes. Also included will be new bridges carrying the east and west outer roads over Route 150. White Avenue will be extended to the East Outer Road.

The widening of Route 150 from just east of Route 71 in Grandview to just west of Route 291 in Lee's Summit will lower hills, fill valleys and provide two 11-foot-wide lanes in each direction. The contract awarded this season is for the first phase of construction, from near Route 71 east to approximately Lumpkins Fork Creek. Contracts for segments to the east will be awarded later.

The roadway will include a raised median, curb and gutter, some signalized intersections and reduced speeds along the corridor, reflecting the input from citizens in context of the community's needs, future development, and changing land use.

Sponsor-A-Highway

by Kerri Lewis

The trash collected in District 4 over a year's time can fill the seats at Arrowhead Stadium. MoDOT workers in the Kansas City area spend more than 30,000 hours each year picking up trash along Missouri's roadways and, on an average, can fill 2 1/2 bags of trash or more per hour. This is more than 76,000 bags of trash accumulated each year just in Kansas City alone. The cost is more than \$970,000.

To help minimize the costs accrued and maintain a clean and litter free Kansas City area, MoDOT

implemented a new environmentally friendly program called Sponsor-A-Highway. Pete Rahn assisted District 4 in a kick-off event on Sept. 17 for this new initiative that complements MoDOT's current Adopt-A-Highway program, offering one more way for citizens to clean up Missouri.

"The program does not cost MoDOT any money and will better serve Missourians by having cleaner and nicer-looking highways," MoDOT Director Pete Rahn said.

Groups or organizations can sponsor a highway in the Kansas City area



Steve Porter

MoDOT Director Pete Rahn explained the importance of the new, environmentally friendly program, Sponsor-A-Highway.

and pay a private group, Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Services of America, Inc., to do litter cleanup and other services on their behalf. This allows area businesses to contribute to the initiative of keeping roadways clean, as well as allowing MoDOT to

allocate money spent on litter removal to other needed roadway improvements for the Kansas City area.

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D5

Central

Phase Two of Route 50 Project Begins

More than 100 people gathered on Aug. 28 to celebrate the official start of phase two of the U.S. Route 50 construction project in Moniteau County.

The \$24.8 million project includes relocating more than eight miles of Route 50 from Route K to west of California. The work includes grading, paving, drainage work and a new interchange at Route 87.

The new Route 50 will consist of four lanes from Route K to the Route 87 interchange. From Route 87 around California, the highway will have two lanes with paved shoulders. Improvements and paving to Jacket Factory Road are also included in this contract.

“We consider Route 50 through mid-Missouri a high priority for expan-



Shaun Schmitz

Work on the second phase of Route 50 has started on the west side of the project, near California.

sion,” said District Engineer Roger Schwartze. “As an alternative to Interstate 70, this route carries 10,000

vehicles a day and the expansion will increase its safety and capacity.”

Moniteau County, Cole County, St. Martins and Centertown are all taking over portions of the existing Route 50 upon completion of the new highway. The city of California and Moniteau County are sharing in the costs for paving and improvements to Jacket Factory Road, which will eventually become Business Route 50 and provide direct access to California’s industrial park.

The first phase of the new U.S. Route



Shaun Schmitz

City and state representatives celebrated the start of this phase of the project by breaking ground with our five-handled shovel.

50, an 11-mile stretch from the St. Martin’s interchange in Cole County to Route K, began in 2007. MoDOT has invested approximately \$87 million in both phases of this project for right of way, utilities and construction. Work continues on the first phase and the entire project is expected to be complete in 2010.

Mid-MO Tour of Missouri



Matt Myers

Cyclists made their way through Hermann on Saturday, Sept. 13.



Holly Dentner

Buckle Bear couldn’t “bear” to miss the Jefferson City finish line event. He spent the afternoon greeting kids and showing them how to buckle up.



Holly Dentner

Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist Brandon Campbell and Senior Design Technician Allison Kuebler promoted bicycle and pedestrian safety at the Jefferson City Health and Wellness Expo on Sept. 12.

10

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Flash Flooding Strikes Again

by Holly Dentner

Heavy rain drenched the mid-Missouri area in early September, causing almost 40 routes in the Central District to close due to water covering the road. In what seems to have become a regular occurrence this year, approximately five inches of rain fell during the overnight hours on Sept. 13.

“Widespread heavy rain makes it more challenging to plan for road closures,” said Maintenance Superintendent Mike Belt. “Most major flood events occur because of high water levels in local rivers and streams. We have access to reliable water level prediction information to give us a good idea of how the rising water will affect roadways. This time the rainfall made it more difficult to know where and when roadways will flood and how high the water will rise.”

Maintenance Superintendent Kerry Thompson noticed some unusual flooding in Cooper and Moniteau counties as well.

“While the water never covered Route 87 near Jamestown, it got pretty close,” said Thompson. “That’s not something I’ve ever seen before.

“It was also strange to see some routes

continue to flood as the water receded on others. We were opening roads one day and closing others the following day.”

Both Thompson and Belt agreed that the rain caused creeks, rivers and streams to overflow very quickly. Maintenance crews were out monitoring water levels



Mike Belt

About four feet of water covered Route D in Cole County, on Sept. 14.

and setting up barricades by the early morning hours on Sept. 14.

The district also activated its emergency operations center through Monday, with employees covering the radio and customer service phones all day and night on Sunday.



Bobby Slater

On Sept. 14, Stinson Creek floodwater covered Business Route 54 at Second Street in Fulton.

While one night of heavy rain isn’t all that rare, it has been an unusually rainy season for central Missouri. During the first two weeks of September alone, Columbia had over 10 inches of rain and Jefferson City had 7.6 inches.

D6

St. Louis Area

District 6's Successful Winter Skills Rodeo

by Kara Price / photos by Shaun Schmitz

Our job during a winter storm is vitally important and motorists are counting on MoDOT to keep them safe. So, District 6 hosted a Winter Skills Rodeo competition for the second year at the St. Charles Maintenance building starting Sept. 9. This winter skills training ensures that our employees have the knowledge and skills necessary to perform snow removal job tasks safely and efficiently.

This competition gave snowplow operators an opportunity to show their skills and pass on tips to newer employees. Taking first place in the District 6 Rodeo competition was Phil Krull, Beaufort Maintenance. Placing second was Ed Pyatt, St. Clair Maintenance. Both men will advance to the statewide Rodeo in Sedalia where they will compete against other district winners later this month for best-in-the-state honors.

Employees were trained on a variety of skills needed to operate a snowplow truck and loader. Each completed a written exam, pre-trip inspection and driving competition.

In addition, Work Life Center representatives were at the Rodeo to brief employees on any upcoming changes to our benefits and answer questions.

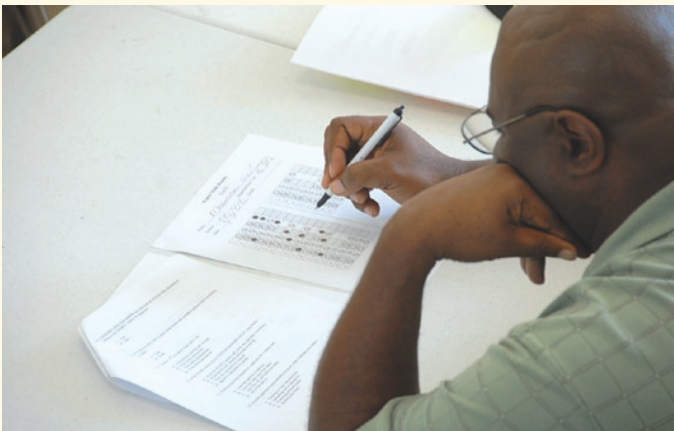
The Rodeo Planning Committee would like to extend a special thank you to all the employees involved in this year's Winter Skills Training.



A snowplow operator finishes the driving portion of her Winter Skills Training.



Judges observe an employee's ability to correctly operate a loader.



A snowplow operator takes the written exam.



A maintenance employee maneuvers through the course.

A Test of the Lindbergh Tunnel

by Jack Wang

It was only a test, and not a real life or death scenario. For about five hours on Sept. 13, motorists were detoured around the Lindbergh Tunnel between Missouri Bottom Rd. and Natural Bridge Rd. due to an emergency inside the tunnel.

The closure was necessary as MoDOT's maintenance and motorist assist crews, Pattonville and Robertson Fire and EMS crews, Bridgeton Police and Lambert-St. Louis international airport operations personnel all took part conducting a mock emergency exercise inside the tunnel.

The scenario involved the mock crash of two airplanes on Lambert's runway, which is directly over the tunnel. Those crashes also caused a chain reaction multi-vehicle crash in the tunnel, with aircraft debris from the crash

raining down onto Lindbergh, causing the incident inside the tunnel.

This was the first training exercise involving MoDOT personnel since the tunnel opened four years ago.

"We were testing the hardware, the systems and operational personnel's response," said Owen Hasson, District 6 Maintenance superintendent.

When traffic cameras and linear heat detection systems inside the tunnel suspect a fire, automated systems are supposed to trigger, and in turn, prompt MoDOT's personnel to respond.

"I thought it was an excellent exercise and we identified a few minor details that need to be evaluated to see if we need to change them," Hasson said.

Several district employees volunteered as victims of the simulated accident. Three tunnel consultants from Boston, and District 6 Area Engineer Larry Welty also took part in evaluating the exercise.

MoDOT plans to conduct similar training exercises every few years to test the response of emergency responders and MoDOT employees.



Emergency crews respond to a mock crash at the Lindbergh Tunnel during a drill to test emergency systems and personnel response.

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D7

Southwest

The Long, Hot Days of Chip Sealing



District 7 maintenance crews completed 160 miles of chip seal this summer season using over 885,000 gallons of asphalt.

Benevolent Duffers

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

The District 7 golf team of Human Resources Manager Paul Today, Area Engineer Skip Schaller, Lamar Maintenance Supervisor Steve Smith and Maintenance Engineer Mike Dunseith helped raise over \$17,300 at the annual 10-33 Benevolent Fund golf tournament in September. Fifty-

two teams signed up to play in the tournament.

Our four golfers placed second in the A Flight with a score of 58.

Next year's tournament is scheduled for Sept. 14, 2009.



From left to right, Skip Schaller, Mike Dunseith, Steve Smith and Paul Today take a break from golfing for a photo opportunity.

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Welcome Center WOW!

Three Missouri artists were chosen this summer as finalists to create a mural at the I-44 Welcome Center, west of Joplin.

David Spear, Columbia; Images in Tile, Joplin; and Matthew Dehaemers, Kansas City; visited in July with interstate motorists at an open house regarding what they, the travelers, would like to see in a mural.

The artists' concepts are posted on the Southwest District Web page for community input

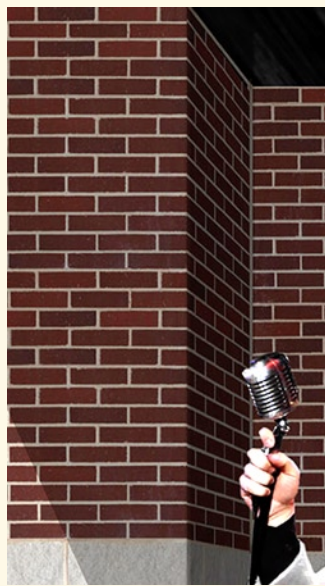
One artist and their mural concept are scheduled for selection later this month.



Matthew Dehaemers



David Spear



Images in Tile

Congratulations District 7! Still 1,000,000+ Hours with No Lost-Time Accidents

Racing Over Stockton Lake



Tour of Missouri racers sped through the Southwest district Sept. 9



50 Employees

105.80
Pounds Lost

5,354.33
Exercise Miles
Logged

D8

Springfield Area



Bob Edwards

Hartville Senior Maintenance Worker Michael Hensley guides a plow past a mailbox along an obstacle course during the Winter Skills Rodeo in September at the District 8 complex in Springfield.

Safety Emphasized As Training Targets Snowplow, Loader Skills

by Angela Eden

The 270 district employees who will plow snow this winter brushed up on their operating skills and safety practices in September's Winter Skills Rodeo.

"The goal is to simulate things you're going to be doing (during snow and ice storms)," said District Maintenance Engineer Dave O'Connor.

Each worker negotiated two obstacle courses — one in a snowplow and one in a loader.

Each had to do a pre-trip safety inspection on each piece of equipment and pass a written examination.

The training sessions also covered proper installation and use of tire chains and the operation of the GL400 salt spreaders.

"It gives supervisors a chance to observe their employees," O'Connor said of the field and classroom exercises. "Then

they can provide extra training if necessary."

Each operator had to score at least 80 percent overall, he said, and everyone met or exceeded that mark.

The district's top scores were turned in by Marshfield Maintenance Crew Leader Wes Hawkins and Mountain Grove Senior Maintenance Worker Tony Dawson. They will represent the district in the statewide Winter Skills Rodeo at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia in October.

District Engineer Kirk Juranas said the refresher training program helps make sure workers know what they're doing on snow and ice and how to be safe for themselves and the public.

"We need to make sure we've got our eye on the ball," Juranas said.



"Talkin' Transportation"
Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

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D8 at Work: Tour of Missouri

District 8 provided assistance with roadway conditions, traffic management and travel safety information for the Tour of Missouri professional bicycle race in the Springfield, Branson

and Lebanon areas in September. As in the inaugural event in 2007, employees in Maintenance, Traffic, Planning and Community Relations played significant roles before and during the Tour.



Angela Eden



Angela Eden



Bob Edwards



Bob Edwards

MoDOT trucks are lined up to block a merge lane (top photo) along a half-mile stretch of Route 65 in Branson. The vehicles shielded riders from high-speed traffic along part of the 18-mile time trial circuit. Workers were taken to the Branson shop for safety training on working in confined spaces.

Rueter Intermediate Maintenance Worker Ryan Ward-Melton (middle left photo) helps direct traffic at the Bee Creek/Branson Hills Parkway interchange along Route 65 in Branson during the time trial.

In a radio interview (middle right photo) shortly before the start of the Lebanon-to-Rolla stage, District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman, right, offers driving safety tips. KJEL/KBNN radio's Kevin Stubblefield is the questioner.

Staffing a MoDOT information booth in Lebanon (bottom photo) are Transportation Planning Specialist Dawne Gardner, right, and Senior Transportation Planner Andrew Seiler. They also provided highway maps,

"Conversation with Missouri" booklets and other handouts at the Tour events in Springfield and Branson.

Tour competitors leave Cowan Civic Center (photo on left) to loop through Lebanon and head to Rolla.



D9

South Central

West Plains Welcomes Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

The South Central District played host during the September meeting of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. “Flavor of the Ozarks” was the theme behind events planned for the commission by the Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce, city of West Plains and Economic Development Corporation of West Plains.

Highlights of the visit included a reception at a downtown loft home that overlooks West Plains, a tour of the Air Evac Lifeteam Completion Center and the opportunity for the commissioners to fly to dinner in an Air Evac helicop-

ter. At dinner, local band The Davis Creek Rounders provided entertainment.

The meeting, which took place Sept. 5, was one of interest to local media as Chief Engineer Kevin Keith introduced “A Conversation for Moving Missouri Forward.” The local delegation thanked the commission for the many transportation improvements they have seen in recent years, leading to economic development, and encouraged the expansion of Route 63 to a four-lane facility from the Iowa to Arkansas state lines.



The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission met in West Plains on Sept. 5, 2008

Second Year of Rodeo a Success, Keeney and Ipock Advance to State Competition

After three days of Rodeo on Sept. 15-17, Senior Maintenance Worker Jake Keeney of Cuba Maintenance was congratulated as the South Central District winner. Keeney scored 98.28 percent. In second place was Senior Maintenance Worker Randall Ipock of Winona Maintenance who scored 98.24 percent. Both will advance to the statewide Rodeo in Sedalia on Oct. 15.

According to Maintenance Engineer Henry Haggard, the 2008 Rodeo was made easier thanks to the success of the 2007 event.

“Last year provided the planning committee with a good foundation

to build on,” he said. “Only changes pertaining to the test and a few other details had to be worked out. We were fortunate to have several talented folks on our team that put what they learned last year to work in 2008. This made all three days this year run smoothly and I appreciate everyone’s efforts.”



With heads down and pencils to paper, 261 employees completed the written test during the three-day Rodeo.



The truck course proved challenging again this year as employees navigated through the course.



The loader course put skills to the test with several employees scoring perfect or close to it.

14 Tour of Missouri Peloton Rolls Through South Central District

It was the first year for the South Central District to be involved in the Tour of Missouri. Two stages, four and five, followed the highways through Pulaski and Phelps counties on Sept. 11 and 12.

Sept. 11, the anniversary of 9-11, was particularly meaningful as the peloton (pack of cyclists) made its way from Lebanon through Fort Leonard Wood near St. Robert. The day ended in downtown Rolla, where in addition to the events driven by the Tour, Missouri

University for Science and Technology hosted Green Day. MoDOT as well as many other organizations participated.

On Sept. 12, Route 68 in downtown St. James was closed for most of the day as an extensive street market greeted those eager to witness a race start. The race moved out of town with the following crowd on its heels headed for the twilight finish in Jefferson City.

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Cyclist cross the finish line of stage four in downtown Rolla on Sept. 11.

D10

Southeast

Southeast Schools Gear Up for Battle of the Belt



Notre Dame High School, KFVS12 Sports Director Todd Richards and Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. Brad Lively film a “Buckle Up and Arrive Alive” public service announcement. The PSA is part of media outreach efforts sponsored by the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety.

With school back in session, District 10 and area high schools are gearing-up for this year’s Battle of the Belt competition.

Battle of the Belt is an annual seat belt competition between Missouri high schools that was developed to reduce the number of motor-vehicle-related injuries and fatalities among Missouri high school students by increasing their seat belt use.

Last year, the Southeast Region had 27 schools that successfully completed the BOTB challenge—the most schools in the state.

“All of the participating schools do a great job reaching their students with life-saving messages,” said Southeast Battle of the Belt Coordinator Belinda McMurry. “And every year, we try our best to reach out to more schools through Battle of the Belt.”

One of the new tools District 10 has added to promote BOTB this year are student-focused public service announcements. Notre Dame High School, one of last year’s statewide BOTB winners, and Malden High School, last year’s local “cheer of the week” winner, have recently partnered with KFVS12, a local television station, and the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety to film PSAs to help spread the word about BOTB.

Notre Dame students and faculty filmed their interactive PSA with the help of KFVS12 Sports Director Todd Richards. In addition to this PSA, Malden High School cheerleaders performed a “Buckle Up and Arrive Alive” cheer as part of a PSA designed for internet use.

These new PSAs will be aired on KFVS12 and highlighted during Heartland Football Fridays. They will also be used on the KFVS12 Web site.

Ceremony Held to Celebrate Guard Cable Installation on Interstate 55

A Guard Cable Safety Celebration ceremony was recently held at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center to help celebrate the installation of median guard cables along Interstate 55 in Southeast Missouri.



Law enforcement and local officials show support of guard cable installation by attending the Guard Cable Safety Celebration.

Speakers included Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Senator Kit Bond; Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. Dale Moreland, Troop E; Missouri State Highway Patrol Capt. G. E. Ridens, Troop E; Cape Girardeau Mayor Jay Knudtson;

Dr. Michael Heid, medical director of the Trauma Program at St. Francis Medical Center; and MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton.

In the Southeast District, guard cables are currently being installed along I-55 from Route E at Oak Ridge to Interstate 57 at Sikeston. The contract was awarded in April to Collins & Hermann, Inc., St. Louis. The project is anticipated for completion by the end of the year.

Guard cables have stopped more than 95 percent of vehicles from crossing into opposing traffic lanes. In addition to successfully reducing the severity of crashes, median guard cables provide protection to emergency responders and are typically the most cost-effective safety barrier.

D10 Takes Part in Fairs



Left: Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety members, D10 employees and local law enforcement participate in the SMO District Fair parade.



Right: D10 Employees work at the Missouri State Fair. In addition to discussing various Southeast projects, a special emphasis was also placed on D10’s Adopt-A-Highway program.



An Adopt-A-Highway booth was set-up as part of the Southeast Missouri State University’s Welcome Back Picnic. More than 1,200 students attended the event.

D10 Retiree



James White retired Sept. 1 after 35 years with MoDOT. White was a Maintenance Crew Leader in Dexter.

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Connections

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Mission

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Visitors Go-4-It at the Missouri State Fair

story by Melissa Black, photos by Shaun Schmitz

Whether it was at one of MoDOT's many displays in the Transportation Expo Center and Highway Gardens, or the multitude of other options throughout the fairgrounds, thousands of visitors decided to "Go-4-It" at this year's Missouri State Fair on Aug. 7-17 in Sedalia.

The Highway Gardens Transportation Exposition Center featured several new displays this year, as well as several returning favorites. New displays included information about the "Saved by the Belt" program, as well as a new video about driving safely. Favorite displays and giveaways from years past that highlighted programs, like Safe & Sound; Better Roads, Brighter Future; and work zones, were also featured.

"We're able to educate visitors about what we do in a fun and creative way at the fair," said Don Hillis, director of System Management. "This is only possible through the help and volunteers we get from all our districts and Central Office. We thank everyone who helped and hope we've made a positive

difference for transportation in Missouri."

No MORE Trash! Day was Aug. 8, and featured a celebration of keeping Missouri's roadways clean. There was a special scavenger hunt on this day, as well as other exciting games, snacks and activities.



High School Students Challenged to Buckle Up

by Laura Holloway

Calling all Missouri High Schools!

The 2008 Battle of the Belt Challenge is under way. Sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, the program began mid-September and runs through Nov. 21.

In 2007, more than 80 schools participated by performing surprise seat belt checks at their school, followed by an education campaign and an additional surprise seat belt check to measure success.

The program was expanded last year to allow student entries of a 30-second video or storyboard depicting why their peers should Buckle Up to Arrive Alive.



Cathy Morrison

Each winning entry received cash prizes, and the video winner was aired statewide. The top video entry was a

creative spot featuring a car, a banana peel and a lesson on buckling up.

Participating schools may choose to participate in one or both components of the program.

"Battle of the Belt is a fun challenge with Missouri teens that can save lives," said Leanna Depue, chair of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's executive committee. "We're excited to see the program grow and see the creativity of the students as they learn the importance of buckling up."

For more information on Battle of the Belt, a list of last year's winners and to sign up your local high school for the 2008 challenge, visit www.saveMOyouth.com.